

1 **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

2 Automatic failover methodology provides a mechanism whereby a
3 central control unit, such as a management station, will automatically takeover
4 interface status polling of objects of a collection station that is temporarily
5 unreachable. This methodology is applicable to any distributed computing
6 environment, such as a data communications network, in which it is desirable
7 to have a central control unit assume the interface status polling operation of a
8 temporarily inaccessible collection station. The collection station may be
9 inaccessible due to the network on which the central control unit and the
10 collection station reside being down or due to the collection station being down
11 for maintenance.